Identifying Cochrane and non-Cochrane reviews relevant to your review topic

Before submitting the Review Proposal Form to EPOC, we ask authors to conduct searches for both Cochrane and non-Cochrane reviews on the proposed topic. The purpose is two-fold:

1. To prevent duplication of topics within the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR).
2. To identify the existing evidence-base in a topic area so that the proposed review topic builds on, but does not replicate published research.

Suggested sources to search

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
- PDQ-Evidence or Health Systems Evidence

For information about how to search PDQ-Evidence, see How to use PDQ to identify systematic reviews and primary studies.

In addition you may want to search the following sources:

- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) either via The Cochrane Library or via the CRD database
- PubMed (use the Clinical Queries to limit your topic terms to systematic reviews)
- Trip Database

Please keep a record of the terms used to search each database as you will need to report these terms on the Review Proposal Form.